

May 18, 2009

This message provides the latest information regarding H1N1 Influenza A (also known as swine flu) in Malaysia.

As of May 17, the Government of Malaysia has confirmed two cases of infection with the H1N1 virus in Malaysia. Both were Malaysian students in the U.S., arrived together at KLIA on Wednesday, May 13, and came down with flu symptoms after arrival in Malaysia. One of the students continued on to Penang.

In response, Malaysian authorities have:

- Quarantined the affected individuals in local hospitals. (Both are being treated with anti-viral medication and are reported in stable condition.)
- Quarantined at home those in contact with the affected individuals after their arrival.
- Sought to locate and isolate other passengers from the same flights. (The Malaysian government has requested that all passengers who traveled aboard Malaysian air flight MH 091 between Newark and Kuala Lumpur via Stockholm or Air Asia flight AK 5358 between Kuala Lumpur and Penang on Wednesday, May 13 contact the Ministry of Health as soon as possible at (03) 8881-0200 or (03) 8881-0300.)

Malaysia has instituted the following procedures for screening arriving passengers for symptoms of influenza:

- Prior to leaving the aircraft, passengers will be required to complete a Ministry of Health declaration.
- Flights arriving from affected countries will typically be segregated at specific gates and passengers will move through a health screening area. Individuals arriving from H1N1 affected countries on a flight that did not originate in an H1N1 affected country are asked to voluntarily report to the screening area.
- All passengers will have their temperature taken -- by thermal imaging scanners at the major international airports (KLIA and LCCT, Penang, Johor Bahru, Kuching, and Kota Kinabalu) and via oral or ear thermometers at other ports of entry.
- Passengers showing symptoms of influenza-like illness or otherwise suspected of being infected will be isolated and tested. If tests prove negative (results are generally available within 6 hours), the passenger will be released.
- Passengers testing positive will be quarantined for at least one week. Other passengers on the same flight will be called to a local MOH hospital for further testing and may be subject to quarantine even if they show no sign of infection.

We recommend you do not travel if you have cold or flu symptoms. (A description of flu symptoms is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/symptoms.htm>.) If you have symptoms of flu, we recommend you see a doctor. (The Consular Section can provide a list of doctors in Malaysia if you need one.) Please note, however, that private hospitals lack facilities for isolating significant numbers of contagious patients, and the Malaysian Ministry of Health

has instructed private doctors and hospitals to send all patients suspected of H1N1 infection to government hospitals for testing and quarantine/treatment if necessary.

The Malaysian Ministry of Health's website can be accessed at <http://www.moh.gov.my/MohPortal/index.jsp?lang=en>.

For further information on H1N1 in Malaysia or to report cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) to the Malaysian Ministry of Health (MOH), call the MOH Operations Center at:

(03) 8881-0200 or (03) 8881-0300
Operational Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For further information about H1N1 flu, including steps you can take to stay healthy, please consult the Department of State information at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4493.html, the United States Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>. For additional travel safety information, please consult the State Department's website at www.travel.state.gov.

U.S. citizens may also call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services in the United States for the latest travel information. The Office of Overseas Citizens Services can be reached from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday through Friday, by calling 1-888-407-4747 from within the U.S. and Canada, or (202) 501-4444 from other countries.

Americans living or traveling in Malaysia are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. Registration allows us to contact you in an emergency and provide updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the Embassy. The U.S. Embassy is located at 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur and can be contacted at:

Phone (24/7): 03-2168-5000
Fax: 03-2148-5801
Website: <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov>
E-Mail: <mailto:klacs@state.gov>